



PRINCIPLES FOR U.S. CLIMATE ACTION

Office of Congressman Paul Tonko (NY-20)

Spring 2019

"We have inherited these conditions. It falls to us to set aside past disagreements and rise together to meet this challenge."

❖ Paul Tonko

1. **Set scientific targets for greenhouse gas neutrality by mid-century.** Congress must enact policies that set certain and enforceable targets to put the United States on a path toward achieving net zero emissions by no later than mid-century.
2. **Ensure a clean U.S. economy is strong, competitive, and fair.** Congress must ensure emerging clean energy industries provide fair wages and safe working conditions. It must also protect America's energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries from anti-competitive behavior by other nations.
3. **Invest in America's sustainable economic future.** Federal climate action requires congressional support for innovations in technology, policy, and finance to accelerate the clean energy transition and bring down costs of economy-wide decarbonization.
4. **Deliver a just and equitable transition.** Federal climate policies should invest in opportunities and support for communities in high-pollution and climate-exposed areas, as well as provide due consideration and support for workers and communities that have been dependent on traditional energy industries.
5. **Protect low-income households.** Federal climate policy should avoid disproportionate burdens on vulnerable people.
6. **Build stronger community resilience to new climate realities.** Federal climate policies should ensure that all Americans are protected from climate-related harms, regardless of where they live.
7. **Empower state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.** Those in the best position to enact innovative policies to manage or prevent climate change should do so—and many already have.
8. **Avoid harm to first movers.** Federal climate policy should, to the extent possible, complement work already being done by states, municipalities, businesses, and individuals, and avoid penalizing entities that have taken early action.
9. **Create stable and predictable policies.** Federal climate action must create steady, credible, and politically durable policies, send strong investment signals & deliver long-term certainty to allow for proper planning and implementation while minimizing compliance costs.

**READ THE FULL REPORT AT
TONKO.HOUSE.GOV/CLIMATE**

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko